

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/757,239	JAEGER, DENNY	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Tadesse Hailu	2173	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the AMENDMENT filed on August 28, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-57.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |
|---|---|

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Thomas H. Ham on September 20.

The application has been amended as follows: **In the claims**

In claims 1 and 16, line 8 of each claims, please **cancel** "and", and please **add** in the next line of each claims --associating a user-entered graphic object or a user-entered command; and--

In claims 10 and 25, please **cancel** "associating a user-entered graphic object with said second graphic directional indicator: and"

In claims 11 and 26, please **cancel** "associating a user-entered command with said second graphic directional indicator; and"

In claim 31, line 10, after "is activated", please **add** --, said module being further configured to associate a user-entered graphic object or a user-entered command with said second graphic directional indicator; --

In claim 40, line 2, please **cancel** "a graphic object" and **replace with** -- said user-entered graphic object --

In claim 41, line 2, please **cancel** "include"

And again in claim 41, line 3, please **cancel** “an entered command” and **replace with** –said user-entered command –

Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

2. This Office Action is in response to the AMENDMENT filed on August 28, 2006 for the above patent application.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The current invention is directed to a system and method for sending and receiving electronic messages, e.g., emails, allows a user to simply draw a graphic directional indicator, e.g., an arrow, in a computer operating environment to send emails. Depending on the drawn graphic directional indicator, the entire computer operating environment or selected graphic objects in the computer-operating environment can be transmitted as an electronic message.

Maejima et al (US Pat No. **5,335,339**) is related to a method, system and storage medium for displaying on a display screen a simulated behavior specification of a real time system, such as typical communication system (e.g., electronic mail) or an exchange system.

With regard to independent claims 1, 16 and 31, Maejima discloses a method for sending and receiving electronic messages (abstract, Figs. 2A, 2B, and 11). As illustrated in the Figures, messages are exchanged between two individuals, for example, person 202A, and person 202B. Maejima discloses

displaying a graphic representation of a destination on a display device to deliver an electronic message (column 15, lines 54-56, Figs. 2B and 11, #202B). As illustrated in the Figs. 2B or 11, 202B is the destination of a message originated from 202A. Maejima discloses drawing a graphic directional indicator to said graphic representation on said display device (column 6, lines 31-43, column 8, lines 62-column 9, lines 4, Figs. 2B and 11). As illustrated in Figs. 2B and 11, the "LINE" 204, which connects 202A and 20B is the directional indicator (i.e., horizontally connecting two persons). Maejima discloses performing a function associated with said graphic directional indicator in response to a user input to send at least one graphic element displayed on said display device to said destination as part of said electronic message (column 10, lines 40-55, Fig. 11, #220). As illustrated in Fig. 11, the functions (menu items) within command menu 220 can be applied to any selected symbol or graphic object.

Maejima, however, fails to teach every element of the above independent claims including "drawing a second graphic directional indicator that graphically contacts said graphic directional indicator;" and "associating a user-entered graphic object or a user-entered command;" as recited in independent claims 1, 16 and 31.

Maejima further fails to teach "wherein said drawing of said graphic directional indicator includes drawing said graphic directional indicator that

substantially encircles at least one graphic object displayed on said display device” as recited in independent claims 46, 50 and 54.

Maejima further fails to teach, “...sorting received electronic messages based on a password object used to secure some of said received electronic messages” as recited in independent claims 48, 52 and 56.

Maejima further fails to teach “displaying an entry representing said electronic message and displaying a duplicate of said graphic element in said entry, said duplicate having same properties of said graphic element such that said duplicate having same properties of said graphic element such that said duplicate can be used in the same manner as said graphic element” as recited in independent claims 49, 53 and 57.

Maejima further fails to teach “graphically moving a password object to said graphic element or an entry representing said electronic message to secure said graphic element or said electronic message;” as recited in independent claims 47, 51 and 55.

For at least the reasons provided above, Maejima does not anticipate the above independent claims, nor does it anticipate claims that depend on these independent claims. Thus, prior art neither renders obvious nor anticipates the combination of claimed elements in light of the specification.

CONCLUSION

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should

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preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5 Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the patent application information retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published application may be obtained from either Private-PAIR or Public-PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private-PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, please see pair-direct.uspto.gov web site. Should you have questions regarding access to the PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Tadesse Hailu, whose telephone number is (571) 272-4051. The Examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 10:30 – 7:00 ET. If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Kincaid, Kristine, can be reached at (571) 272-4063 Art Unit 2173 and 2174.

Examiner Tadesse Hailu
Art Unit 2173 – Operator Interface
9/25/06

TADESSE HAILU
Examiner